



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 3, 2002

H.R. 4044

An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the state of Maryland and the state of Louisiana for implementation of a program to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on September 26, 2002*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4044 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to Maryland and Louisiana for the control or eradication of South American nutria (a foreign invasive species) and for the restoration of marshlands damaged by the mammal. For this purpose, the act would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007. The bill also would require the Secretary, acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), to develop a long-term nutria control program for Louisiana.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4044 would cost \$30 million over the 2003-2007 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 4044 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The grant funds authorized by this legislation would benefit the states of Maryland and Louisiana, and any costs incurred by those states to comply with the conditions of that assistance would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4044 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	6
Estimated Outlays	6	6	6	6	6

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by H.R. 4044 will be appropriated for each fiscal year and will be paid to the two states in annual lump sums. The annual authorization level consists of \$4 million for Maryland and \$2 million for Louisiana. CBO estimates that developing the long-term nutria program for Louisiana required by section 3 of the bill would have no significant effect on USFWS spending.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4044 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The grant funds authorized by this legislation would benefit the states of Maryland and Louisiana, and any costs incurred by those states to comply with the conditions of that assistance would be voluntary.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 3, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4044 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 24, 2002. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the cost estimates.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Cecil McPherson

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis